

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01436 032118Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-15

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 SPC-03 PM-07 DODE-00

PA-03 PRS-01 DRC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /131 W

----- 005631

R 031631Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4702

INFO COMDT COGARD WASHDC

CCGDSEVEN MIAMI FLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 1436

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PINS PBOR EFIS SREF SNAR BF

SUBJ: GCOB VIEWS ON NARCOTICS, FISHERIES AND IMMIGRATION
COOPERATION

REF: NASSAU 1420 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: CONVERSATIONS WITH CGOC OFFICIALS OCTOBER 2
ELICITED CLEAR GCOB POSITION THAT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS INVOLV-
ING US COAST GUARD ACTIVITIES IN AREAS OF NARCOTICS AND FISH-
ERIES MUST RESPECT GCOB SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT ON PROBLEM OF
HAITIAN REFUGEES, GCOB POLICY IS TO PREVENT THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF THE BAHAMAS AS A WAY STATION TO THE US OR AS A FALL-
BACK REFUGE. END SUMMARY

1. COURTESY VISIT TO NASSAU BY CCGDSEVEN COMMANDER ADMIRAL
WAGNER ON OCTOBER 2 INCLUDED APPOINTMENT WITH CABINET SECRE-
TARY RODNEY BAIN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PERMANENT SECRETARY
ORIS RUSSELL. ADMIRAL'S GENERAL REVIEW OF AREAS OF COOPERA-
TION BETWEEN U.S. AND GCOB IN WHICH COAST GUARD PLAYS A PROM-
INENT ROLE ELICITED STATEMENTS OF GCOB POLICY WITH RESPECT
TO LIMITATIONS ON THAT COOPERATION. FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PRE-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01436 032118Z

PARED AFTER ADMIRAL WAGNER'S DEPARTURE AND WAS NOT CLEARED

WITH HIM. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ADMIRAL WAGNER WOULD CONCUR IN THE DESCRIPTION OF GCOB POLICY AS REPORTED BELOW, BUT HE MAY WISH TO COMMENT SEPARATELY.

2. NARCOTICS. CITING THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING THE GILMA I IN WHICH THERE AROSE A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE CG COULD ENTER BAHAMIAN TERRITORIAL WATERS TO PICK UP BALES OF MARIJUANA, ADMIRAL WAGNER SAID OUR DESIRE TO BE COOPERATIVE WAS SHOWN BY THE FACT THAT THE CG HAD ASKED PERMISSION TO ENTER RATHER THAN USE THE AUTHORITY ALREADY AVAILABLE TO IT TO ENTER. BAIN AGREED THAT COOPERATION WAS REQUIRED IN THIS AREA, AND THAT, WHILE HE WAS AWARE OF "AGREEMENTS", PROCEDURES EMPLOYED IN THE GILMA I INCIDENT, IN WHICH EMBASSY ASKED PERMISSION ON BEHALF OF CG, WERE MORE SATISFACTORY AND APPROPRIATE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUCH INCIDENTS HAD TO BE MET IN A WAY THAT RESPECTED "LOCAL POLITICS" AND ADDED THAT IN LOCAL POLITICS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE BAHAMAS WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR. REPEATING PREFERENCE FOR A PROCEDURE IN WHICH THE EMBASSY ASKED PERMISSION FOR THE CG TO ACT, BAIN EXPLAINED THAT RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY WAS IMPORTANT FOR ALL NATIONS, BUT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT BAHAMAS.

E. FISHERIES. ADMIRAL WAGNER DESCRIBED WHAT CG PATROLS DO TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF FISHERIES INCIDENTS, INCLUDING PATROLLING INSIDE BAHAMIAN CONTIGUOUS FISHERIES ZONE TO TELL US FISHERMEN FOUND THERE THAT THEY WERE WHERE THEY DIDN'T BELONG. AGAIN BAIN AGREED THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT AREA OF COOPERATION BUT THAT, OF COURSE, ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE BAHAMIAN CFZ WERE PRIMARILY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GCOB. HE STATED FRANKLY THAT THERE WAS QUITE A DISTANCE BETWEEN THE GCOB'S POLICY OF CARRYING OUT ITS OWN ENFORCEMENT IN THE CFZ AND ITS CAPACITY TO DO SO, BUT HE HOPED THAT "OTHER NEGOTIATIONS" WOULD HELP BRIDGE THIS GAP.

3. HAITIAN REFUGEES. BAIN AND RUSSELL WERE ASKED DIRECTLY WHETHER HAITIAN REFUGEES COULD BE LANDED IN THE BAHAMAS BY THE CG WHEN RESCUED AT A POINT CLOSER TO THE BAHAMAS THAN TO THE US. NEITHER BAIN NOR RUSSELL ANSWERED THE QUESTION SPECIFICALLY. BAIN AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT THE HAITIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS ONE OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THE BAHAMAS NOW HAS A

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01436 032118Z

HAITIAN POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 20,000. THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN RETURNING HAITIAN REFUGEES TO HAITI SO THAT ONCE LANDED, THEY SEEM TO STAY. THE BAHAMAS DID NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE THE USE OF THE BAHAMAS AS EITHER A WAY STATION TO THE US OR AS A SECOND BEST PLACE TO RELOCATE. RUSSELL REPORTED THAT WHEN THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES REQUESTED THAT THE BAHAMAS ACCEPT SIX HAITIANS, THE RESPONSE HAD BEEN TO AGREE, ON THE CONDITION THAT THE

UNHCR ACCEPT IN RETURN 5,000 OF THE HAITIANS ALREADY IN THE
BAHAMAS.
SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NASSAU01436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SPIERS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731054/aaaabnia.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NASSAU 1420 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GCOB VIEWS ON NARCOTICS, FISHERIES AND IMMIGRATION COOPERATION
TAGS: MARR, PINS, PBOR, EFIS, SREF, SNAR, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005